NYSDEC Region 8 Fish & Wildlife Management Board meeting was held on June 4, 2026. Seneca County Sportsman Delegate Tom Grasek, and Legislative Delegate Paul Kronenwetter attended the meeting. There were 21 people in attendance of which 4 were NYSDEC personnel. Representing 9 Counties. These are the minutes as recorded by the Board Secretary.

County Reports

Chemung County: No county representatives in attendance.

Genesee County: No report.

Livingston County: Any progress on adjusting boundary between WMU 8M/9P to account for overabundance of deer and limited doe tags in southern Livingston County stuck in 9P? Palermo will check with Albany as it may be a good time to make the adjustment due to the recent deer regs changes already impacting harvest calculations being comparable between years. Complaints about accessibility for fishing Genesee River at Genesee River WMA as it is a long walk along the road that is gated off. Palermo will forward issue to DEC Region 9 as the WMA is managed by them. Tick issues seem to be increasing.

Monroe County: No county representatives in attendance.

Ontario County: Ticks and Lyme disease cases are at record levels.

Orleans County: Holley Rod & Gun Club hunter ed class for the coming weekend is full. Lots of raccoons and some rabies cases. Federation is working to set up a youth pheasant hunt for this fall.

Schuyler County: Concerns about law allowing solar installations on water bodies causing navigation issues. Solar seems to be taking up lot of land for little power produced. Proposed changes to the deer regs are generating a lot of questions.

Seneca County: No Report.

Steuben County: Cohocton Chapter of NWTF Jakes Day planned at Bath Rod & Gun Club on July 11. Steuben County Fair August 18-23 in Bath with Steuben County Federation Turkey Calling Contest August 20 at 5pm. Turkey season was pretty sparse. Good news is DEC is planning a turkey study in coming years to look at possible reasons for lower turkey numbers such as disease, overharvest, predators, or habitat.

Wayne County: Sodus Boat Launch planning is progressing. Fisheries needs plans so that Habitat & Access Stamp Funds can be requested. Northern Montezuma Access and Public Use Plan generated a request to have the parking area on Howland Island be moved on hill further into the island for better access.

Yates County: Turkey season went well. Youth turkey hunt had 30 hunters and they harvested 23 birds. Youth fishing derby to be held on June 27. Middlesex Club hosting 2 Hunter ed courses a month all summer. Trapping course August 8, Archery courses August 15 and September 19. Firearm courses August 29 and September 26. Ticks are increasing and health departments have free tick removal kits available. How are the ciscoes stocked in Keuka faring? Answer-they do not seem to be reproducing yet. Lake trout being caught through ice were full of small perch, so they may also be eating all the ciscoes. DEC adjusting stocking strategy to release ciscoes at a larger size. Fall stocking 4100 muskies to Waneta Lake. Keuka Outlet still gets stocked with Brown Trout. Seneca Lake receives lake trout, brown trout, Atlantic salmon as well as rainbows at Catherine Creek.

Advisory Organization Reports

Izaak Walton League – No representative present

NYSCC – No representative present

FLCC – FLCC is on pause.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – No CCE representative currently on the Board.

CFAB: No representative present

Farm Bureau: No representative present

SWCD – No representative present

Agency Reports

NYSDEC

Natural Resources: DEC recently closed on the acquisition of former Boy Scout Camp Babcock-Hovey. DEC executive staff toured site and now decisions will need to be made regarding what DEC will do with the camp and how much of it will be open to public as part of Willard WMA vs. how much will be more restricted and possibly made into a DEC camp of some sort. Potential for an additional youth summer camp or a hunter ed or Becoming and Outdoor Woman facility. Either way DEC will need funding and at least a couple of staff to maintain the camp buildings and facilities.

Wildlife:

Braddock Bay WMA: • Parking lot on Manitou Beach Road paved. • Later this summer, parking lot on Bennett Road will be paved. • Coordinated effort between DEC, Town of Greece, and PRISM to control water chestnut.

Timber Harvest at Rattlesnake Hill WMA: • 120 acres of clearcuts across multiple stands. Unhealthy old conifer plantations. • Prep work beginning, anticipate that trees will be cut this

winter. • Goal is to regenerate dense stands of aspen mixed with conifer. Patchy distribution ideal for ruffed grouse.

Tonawanda and John White WMAs: • National Grid rebuild, relocation, & easement widening for existing powerline crossing these WMAs. • Will cause some limitations to public access near active construction. Unclear at the moment if will overlap with fall hunting seasons, but will make the public aware if so.

Prescribed Fire: • Despite the wet spring and early green-up, Region 8 successfully burned portions of 6 properties. Uncertain of total acres at the moment, but approximately 120 acres.

o Cameron Mills State Forest

o Cameron State Forest

o Helmer Creek Wildlife Management Area

o Coon Hollow State Forest

o West Hill State Forest

o Rush Oak Openings Unique Area

Proposed Deer Reg Changes: • Regulatory Impact Statement and Q&A on DEC website helpful for public understanding. o https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/proposed-emergency-recently-adopted- regulations/fish-wildlife-revisions • Intent is to increase antlerless harvest. • DMP availability unlimited in select WMUs. All who apply would get 1 for those WMUs, and if you harvest an antlerless deer with it, the tag can be replaced. o R8: 8A, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8J, 8N, 8R, 8S. • Unlimited consignment of DMPs between hunters. • Expand September firearms season to all WMUs that would not have a SMP quota. o Currently: 8A, 8C, 8F, 8G, 8J, 8N o To Add: 8H, 8R, 8S • Broadheads – clarifies existing language that “freely swing” infers no external force beyond gravity. • Earn a second buck might wait until next year. Need to iron out verification element. • Earn-a-2nd Buck creates an incentive for hunters to harvest at least one antlerless deer, while the other propose regulation changes reduce barriers and increase opportunities for hunters to harvest more than one antlerless deer.

Deer Harvest: • 3,050 wild deet tested for CWD. 0 positive. • 11%: The estimated percentage of hunters who used the newly-offered E-tags for all of their 2025 deer hunting. An additional 19% of hunters used a combination of E-tags and paper tags throughout the hunting seasons. • 63%: The portion of successful deer hunters reporting their harvest as required by law. This is well above the five-year average of 49%. Harvest reporting was likely increased through hunters adopting E-tagging, which requires immediate reporting as part of the tagging process.

Fisheries:

Cohocton River Access-new parking lot between Wayland and Atlanta is getting a lot of use. Naples Creek-working on acquiring parking in Eelpot area. Plans being developed for a parking lot on Mill Creek in Perkinsville. Seneca Lake Severne Point boat launch has been closed for several weeks due to high lake levels which have damaged one of the docks. Should be re-opened soon. Seneca Lake will be main lake subjected to fisheries surveys this year.

Law Enforcement: - No representative present

NYS Parks(OPRHP) - No representative present

Old Business –

A. County Representative Appointment Letters—Mike Wasilco will be following up with the reps in need of re-appointment and their counties.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next meeting is September 3rd at 530pm.